## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /068 W

R 101110Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1572

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IR
SUBJ: NEW APPOINTMENTS IN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS AND FINANCE

- 1. ON MARCH 6 IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT HASHEM MA'ADI (ALSO WRITTEN MOADI) WOULD REPLACE AHMAD HOJATI AS UNDERSECRETARY IN CHARGE OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION IN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE. HOJATI WAS NAMED UNDERSECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS IN THE SAME MINISTRY.
- 2. MA'ADI, WHO IS 38 YEARS OLD, HAS BEEN MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE IRAN INTERNATIONAL FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS CORPORATION (IIFEC) SINCE EARLY 1975 AND EARLIER WAS DIRECTOR OF THE IRAN HANDICRAFT CENTER. MA'ADI, WHO SPEAKS EXCELLENT FRENCH AND ENGLISH, STUDIED IN TEHRAN PARIS, AND IN CALIFORNIA. AS HEAD OF IIFEC, HE WAS NOT REGARDED AS AN EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATOR BY THOSE MOST CONCERNED, INCLUDING EXHIBITION PARTICIPANTS. HE ALSO HAS GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT HE LOOKED AT THE U.S. TRADE CENTER AS A COMPETITOR -- ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS HIS SPECIALIZED EXHIBITIONS (SOME OF WHICH HAD RELATIVELY THIN PARTICIPATION) -- WHICH GIVES RISE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOME TREPIDATION REGARDING HIS NEW ROLE AS HEAD OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT AFFECTS THE SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF THE TRADE CENTER. HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT CLEARLY IS A PROMOTION. MA'ADI'S SUCCESSOR IN THE IIFEC HAS NOT YET BEEN NAMED.

3. AHMAD HOJATI, BORN IN 1934, STUDIED IN IRAN, SWITZER-

LAND, AND FRANCE, WITH A PHD IN SOCIAL STUDIES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS. PRIOR TO HIS ASSIGNMENT AS HEAD OF CUSTOMS IN JANUARY 1975, HE SERVED AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS (1970) AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE. IN THE LATE 1960'S HE WAS ATTACHED TO THE IRANIAN ECONOMIC MISSION IN WASHINGTON. HIS ENGLISH IS GOOD. HIS NEW POST, WHILE IMPORTANT, IS NOT GENERALLY REGARDED AS AN UPWARD MOVE.

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## Message Attributes

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